

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

March 10, 2006

HMM-161 returns home to Miramar

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

It was an emotionally charged evening when more than 150 Marines and sailors from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, touched down on the flight line here and were greeted by their friends and families.

HMM-161 returned from a seven-month long deployment to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

The squadron arrived at Al Asad, Iraq, Aug. 5 and immediately went to work putting their aircraft together. In three weeks all of their aircraft were ready for operations.

HMM-161 started flying missions in September 2005, said Cpl. Carson D. Clover, airframe mechanic, HMM-161.

"The aircrews are the ones out there saving lives, we're the ones turning wrenches to make it happen," said Clover, a 21-year-old Ashland, Ore., native.

While deployed the "Greyhawks" performed casualty evacuations, troop insertions, troop extractions, raids and general support missions, said Cpl. Isaac M. Avendano crew chief, HMM-161.

"Our main mission was saving lives," said Avendano, a 24-year-old native of Ventura, Calif.

Not only did HMM-161 help save the lives of Marines, but they also evacuated soldiers, Iraqi military and police, civilians and wounded insurgents, said Avendano.

"We take pride in the fact that we never missed a casualty evacuation or dropped a single mission," said Avendano.

HMM-161 ran missions around the clock.

However, not every mission was combat related. Some of the general support missions consisted of transporting mail for the Marines in country, transporting Marines to Baghdad for sick call, transporting VIPs, and transporting voting ballots as well as the Iraqis who ran the polling sites, said Avendano.

While in Iraq, HMM-161 also achieved 55,000 mishap-free flight hours, according to Capt. Matt Salas, pilot, HMM-161.

Now that his fellow Marines are home, most want to spend time with their families and get back into the swing of things, said Salas a 27-year-old Hacienda Heights, Calif., native.

For the Marines of HMM-161 the mere sight of their families and friends waiting for them was a welcome one from the fast-paced deployment.

"It feels good to rest from the 24-hour operations tempo," said Cpl. Steven B. Young assistant operations chief, HMM-161.



Sgt. Evan Price, airframe mechanic, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, reunites with his girlfriend after his squadron's seven-month deployment to Iraq. During the deployment, HMM-161 never missed a casualty evacuation or dropped a single mission. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°
Today



74°/58°
Saturday



74°/57°
Sunday

**Assistant
commandant
visits
Miramar
Page 5**



**CASEVAC
corpsmen
help save
lives in Iraq
Page 6**



Women's History Month celebrated during March

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

In 1980, President Carter issued the first presidential proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the president followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.

This year's theme, "*Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams*," honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams.

The purpose of women's history month is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life.

Learning about the extraordinary achievements of women helps diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize who women are and what they accomplish. In celebrating women's historic achievements, we present an authentic view of history. The knowledge of women's history provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller understanding of the female experience.

How are our children — girls and boys alike — going to understand the importance of women to American culture and history if their education includes little or nothing about the significance of women's contributions?

We know from research and from anecdotal studies that learning the stories of women's success, talent and accomplishments expands a sense of what is possible for girls and women. Information about women and their successes gives males and females alike a perspective that challenges some of our cultures' most archaic assumptions about women.

With this in mind, women's history becomes a story of inspiration and hope, courage and tenacity, and promise, possibility and purpose.

Women's history is our nation's story. It is the story of how women built communities and inspired and nurtured dreams and how they will continue to do so.

CAR eligibility criteria updated

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

In a recent message to all Marines, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, issued new guidance for Marines concerning eligibility criteria for the Combat Action Ribbon.

Per All Marine Message 010/06, signed Feb. 24, Hagee said the evolution in warfare that has occurred during combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, especially in regards to the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices, causes consideration to be given to eligibility for the CAR.

Currently, the two eligibility criteria for the CAR are: (1) the individual must have participated in a bona fide ground or surface combat firefight or action during which he/she was under enemy fire and (2) his/her performance

In keeping with the tradition of Women's History Month, President George W. Bush's proclamation for March 2006 lauds the generations of women across our great land who have helped make our country stronger and better:

"They have improved our communities and played a vital role in achieving justice and equal rights for all our citizens. During Women's History Month, we celebrate the many contributions women make to our society.

"At the end of the 19th century, pioneers Jane Addams and Ellen Starr opened the doors of Hull House to serve impoverished and immigrant families in the Chicago community. Presidential Medal of Freedom winner Annie Dodge Wauneka worked to educate her native Navajo community about preventing and treating disease. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala., helping to inspire a nationwide movement for equal justice under the law. Recently, our Nation said goodbye to another remarkable American woman and courageous civil rights leader, Coretta Scott King, who helped call America to its founding ideals.

"Today, the United States of America remains a country that offers the greatest freedom on Earth and believes in the promise of all individuals. Women continue to strengthen our Nation and the world by excelling as leaders in all walks of life, including business, law, politics, family life, education, community service, science, medicine and the arts. The brave women who wear the uniform of the United States armed forces are helping to lay the foundations of peace and freedom for generations to come. This month, I encourage all Americans to join me in celebrating the extraordinary achievements and contributions of American women.

"Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor the history, accomplishments and contributions of all American women."

while under fire was satisfactory.

Hagee stated that the use of the word "or" in the phrase "firefight or action" clearly allows a commander considerable leeway in determining eligibility beyond the scope of a firefight engagement only.

Pursuant to the eligibility requirements for the CAR, the commandant said he considers exposure to a detonated IED as being under enemy fire. Therefore, Marines who take appropriate actions during such an engagement meet both CAR eligibility requirements.

This new guidance is effective immediately and is also retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001. U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command will be responsible for coordinating a review of those individual cases previously submitted but not approved for the CAR. The ALMAR indicates further amplifying guidance is forthcoming.



Is this your Dodge?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots.

Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice.

For more information, please call 577-1276 or 577-4139.

MIRAMARKS

"What do you think of the new guidance policy concerning eligibility for the Combat Action Ribbon?"

LANCE CPL. RALPH X. FRUGONE
Avionics Mechanic
MALS-11

"I think it's about time that we give credit where it's due. I think it's unfair that a Marine who loses a limb doesn't rate a CAR, but a sailor can get one for less."



CPL. TYLER D. MITCHELL
Air Traffic Controller
H&HS

"We fight an enemy that is not always there. I think it's good because Marines risk bodily injury for their country."



FLIGHT JACKET

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Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



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MCAS Miramar

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Cpl. Paul Leicht
Internal Information Chief
Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver
Layout

Tax center assists Miramar Marines

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The 2005 tax season is coming to a close. Service members and their family members have until April 15 to benefit from the free tax services that are provided by the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tax Center.

The center is located in Building 6250 and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Active duty, retired and activated reserve service members are eligible for free services.

The center provides tax advice, preparation and assistance. The center also provides assistance with income tax returns that have not been filed for up to three years.

The center can also electronically transfer completed tax forms to the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax services will not be provided to individuals with personally owned businesses or corporations.

Tax center staff is qualified to handle most tax related issues. Each staff member receives yearly training from the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The staff is certified upon completion of the course and after passing a final exam. They are then required to take state tax classes. Some of the staff has received civilian training from H&R Block.

Most civilian companies that offer tax services are not familiar with military tax issues and often charge from \$100 to \$200 for their services.

At the end of May 2005, the Miramar Vita program was responsible for returning more than \$6.5 million to service members and their families while saving them an estimated total of \$782,026 in tax preparation fees.

"This program has continually proved itself to be a major quality of life benefit enjoyed by our entire military community," said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Get Noticed by Motorists...



NOT BY PMO

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5100.19E STATES:
"During periods of reduced visibility, and before morning colors and after evening colors, personnel shall wear retro-reflective clothing, vest or belt when conducting physical training or exercising on or near roadways."

**It's not just a good idea
IT'S THE LAW**

Battle Colors visit Miramar

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marines, sailors, their families and friends were treated to a spectacular performance March 7, at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar during a Battle Color Ceremony featuring the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, the Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard.

The oldest post of the Marine Corps, Marine Barracks, Washington D.C., is home to both the Drum and Bugle Corps as well as the Silent Drill Platoon.

The Drum and Bugle Corps, also known as the Commandant's Own, is recognized as a world-wide premier musical marching unit.

The Commandant's Own used a combination of uniquely choreographed drill movements and traditional marching music as well as contemporary music that amazed the several hundred spectators.

"This is my second time seeing this ceremony," said Sgt. Christopher L. Oliver, embarkation chief, Marine Aircraft Group 46, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. "This is something I will never get tired of seeing. It's kind of a motivational tool. It makes me proud to be a Marine."

During the 18th and 19th centuries military musicians provided a means to pass orders to Marines in battle formations. Different drums and bugle sounds signaled Marines to either attack or retreat from battle.

The unit was formed in 1934 to provide musical support for ceremonies and was additionally tasked with presidential duties. President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded the Drum and Bugle Corps the scarlet and gold breast cord for the extra responsibility.

The Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performs precision drill movements without the use of verbal commands. Moments after the platoon marched onto the parade field, they began to execute advanced drill movements to the admiration of all present.

During the performance the platoon fixed bayonets and proceeded to spin their rifles within a few inches of their fellow Marines faces.

The platoon executed complicated ripple drill movements. The platoon formed a line and the leading Marine began the movement. Each Marine followed one count behind the Marine in front of them.

A series of individual performances followed when the platoon's rifle inspector inspected some of his Marines. After inspecting the Marine's rifle, the rifle inspector returned the rifle to the Marine in a unique manner. He threw the rifle behind himself and over his shoulder only to be caught one-handed by the Marine in formation.

"It was an amazing and wonderful performance," said cadet Master Chief



The Marine Corps Color Guard marches past Col. Paul C. Christian, commanding officer, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, March 7 during a Battle Colors Ceremony at MCAS Miramar. The military campaigns that the Marine Corps has participated in are represented by 50 streamers and silver bands on the colors. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

Hillary S. Hill, Junior Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, Ramona High School, Ramona, Calif. "I don't understand how one can achieve such precision. A lot of the cadets want to be like that."

The Silent Drill Platoon made its first performance in the Sunset Parades of 1948 and received a positive response. The platoon then became a regular tradition for the parades at Marine Barracks, Washington D.C.

Each Marine within the drill platoon is individually selected from the Schools

of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C., by interviews conducted by Marine Barracks personnel.

The ceremony also featured the Marine Corps Color Guard holding the official battle colors of the Marine Corps. The military campaigns that the Marine Corps has participated in are represented by 50 streamers and silver bands on the colors.

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment represents the professionalism, discipline and esprit de corps that the Marine Corps is known for.



Deputy Sheriff Phil Beaumont crumples to the ground after being struck by a Taser March 1 in the third scenario of Taser training at East Miramar. Beaumont is completely protected from the Taser by his suit and helmet, but does a good job of acting for the sake of training. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.*

Miramar hosts law enforcement Taser training

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“You guys got spoiled, you got spoiled at Miramar!” exclaimed San Diego County Deputy Sheriff Steve Winchell, speaking on how well the training facilities at Miramar work for the Sheriff’s Department.

The San Diego Sheriff’s Department concluded the final day of Taser training for their second class of officers March 1, at their East Miramar training site.

The Taser San Diego Sheriff’s Department uses is the X-26 model and is a less-lethal method to stop suspects for apprehension. The X-26 Taser, when deployed, shoots two barbs attached to the gun portion by wires. The Taser delivers enough electrical current to cause a full body cramp, said Winchell.

The department has recently purchased Tasers for their officers to use out in the field. It takes three days to qualify to use the Taser. The March 1 class is only the second class to qualify with the weapon. Currently there are 60 deputy sheriffs qualified to carry the weapon, however the department has purchased approximately 850 Tasers, said Winchell.

The weapon is designed to incapacitate and not kill, but the term less lethal is used because there is no guarantee. However, the weapon’s manufacturer, Taser International Inc., is careful to say that no one has ever proven that their weaponry has caused anyone’s death.

The first day of training is almost entirely Taser. The officers are issued their Taser, taught how it works and deploy it a few times. In the next two days the deputy sheriffs are trained on firearms, defensive tactics, tactical communication and vehicle operation. All three days of training take place at their training facility at East Miramar.

“Some of the people have already said that this is the best training they have ever had in their life,” said Winchell.

Winchell accredits the outstanding training to the training facilities and the reality-based and scenario training.

When asked about the safety of the device, Capt. Glenn D. Revell said the device is one of the safest ways to detain combative suspects. The actual shock of the weapon stops hurting instantly when the weapon is shut off.

The advantage of having the Taser in the department’s arsenal is that it adds one more tool to their belt. It can poten-

tially stop situations from escalating to being lethal.

“They are going to be ‘Tased’ perhaps, but they are not going to die,” said Winchell regarding using the Taser instead of lethal force.

Winchell also added that the best deployment of the Taser is when the weapon is not used. The Taser has a laser sight on it so when it is drawn it paints a very imposing picture; it is a great deterrent, said Winchell.

That is where this training makes an impact. It is important to teach all of these skills to the officers, so they use the weapon whenever they think it is appropriate - when it is a reasonable force.

“Miramar is so central, we love it here,” said Winchell.

The department is able to do virtually all of their training at East Miramar except rifle training.

The department is very happy with the training facility. The arrangement they have with the Marine Corps and specifically Miramar is one that has benefited the department greatly.

“From day one we’re with the Marine Corps on the base and it doesn’t get any better,” said Winchell.

Assistant commandant visits Miramar museum

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Gen. Robert Magnus, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps and strong supporter of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum, paid a special visit to the museum Feb. 16 to personally thank all of the volunteers for their efforts.

Zealous staff members and docents welcomed Magnus with smiles and enthusiasm as he made his way past the historic exhibits and to the back conference room, where he prepared to give a special speech to the volunteers.

"It's been several years since the general has seen the museum," said retired Maj. Gen. Bob Butcher, chairman, Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation. "He is a very busy guy and for him to take an hour out of his schedule to say thanks is quite touching."

Magnus has had a vested interest in the museum since he served as the commander of the former Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area at MCAS El Toro in 1997. He even came up with the museum's new title during its reopening at Miramar in 2000.

"He got the name from the 1951 Howard Hughes movie, 'The Flying Leathernecks,' starring John Wayne and Robert Ryan," said Butcher, a Mineral Wells, W. Va., native. "After his suggestion we contacted RKO (Radio-Keith-Orpheum) for copyright and they said they would be honored if we took the name."

Marine Corps aviation history is important to Magnus and he sincerely appreciates those who help to preserve it.

"You should feel good about the Marines and sailors represented in this museum," Magnus said. "This tiny force has tremendous power and impact on this great nation. I want to thank each and every one of you, who are drawn to selfless community service, for taking the time and energy to maintain this living stream of history and doing them honor."

After his heartfelt speech, Magnus was escorted by Butcher around the 4,200-square-foot museum, leading him to the various indoor exhibits and to the vintage aircraft outside.

Magnus stopped many times during his tour to thank every volunteer who walked into his path, including retired Sgt. Maj. Michael Zacker, a museum docent.

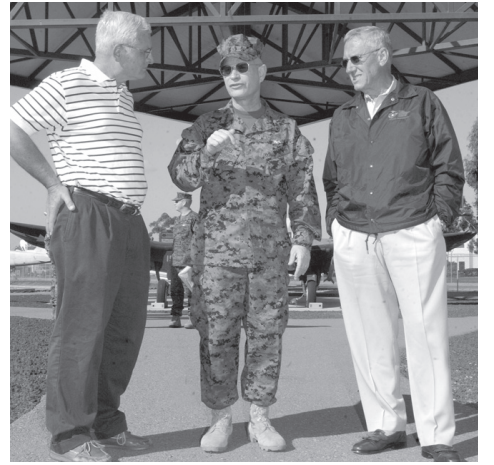
"It is much appreciated that the assistant commandant wanted to show us and the rest of the Marine Corps that he cares by stopping by," said Zacker, a San Diego native. "However, we don't volunteer our time here for the recognition. We do this because there's a story to be told, and we want to share this important information with our visitors. We're preserving history for those who serve after us."

The museum, which recently opened its new public access gate off Miramar Road, is open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

For more information on the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum or to become a volunteer, call (858) 693-1723.



Gen. Robert Magnus, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, thanks former Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum volunteer, Joann Scott, for her past contributions to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Flying Leatherneck Museum during a visit Feb. 16. Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones



Retired Col. Bart Connolly (left), Board of Advisors, Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation, and retired Maj. Gen. Bob Butcher (right), chairman, Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation, listen intently to Gen. Robert Magnus, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, outside Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Feb. 16. Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones

Corpsmen go ‘toe-to-toe’ with ‘Reaper’

Story by Staff Sgt. Raymie G. Cruz

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — A convoy moves across the Iraqi desert. The unexpected happens: BOOM! An explosion sends fire and shards of hot, jagged shrapnel through the midsection of the convoy.

A Marine yells to another, “The Hummer’s on fire, let’s get out!” He turns to find the driver unconscious. He gets out screaming, “We’ve got wounded!” A casualty evacuation call is sent.

Minutes later, as the Marine clutches his friend’s hand, he tells him he will be OK because two Navy corpsmen just arrived on a helicopter.

When coalition forces convoy

across Iraq, Improvised Explosive Devices can mean numerous injuries and fatalities, but casualty evacuation corpsmen are there to lock the door, when death comes knocking.

“The coolest thing about being a corpsman is that we stand toe-to-toe with the ‘Reaper’ every day,” said Hospitalman 3rd Class Jared E. Zieris, CASEVAC corpsman, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (forward). “We are death’s adversaries and we beat him 90 percent of the time.”

Although the corpsmen are able to help most of the casualties they come into contact with, there are times when they have to deal with the battles they have lost.

“It’s really hard when we lose someone, because you know they have family and friends at home praying for their safe return,” said Hospitalman Dien T. Pham, CASEVAC corpsman, MAG-16. “It just makes you wish you could have done more to help them.”

The CASEVAC corpsmen are willing to risk their lives to be able to save the life of another.

“We run out of the helicopter not knowing what could be out there waiting for us,” said Zeiris. “All we know is, there is a person out there depending on us and we need to get him out of harm’s way.”

According to the West Palm Beach, Fla.,

native, it is worth the risk, upholding the tradition of the Navy corpsman by putting their lives in harm’s way to save others.

“The corpsmen show a strong desire to be part of the unit,” said Maj. James D. Hill, executive officer, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, MAG-16, and Calvert City,

“We are death’s adversaries and we beat him 90 percent of the time.”

***Hospitalman 3rd Class Jared E. Zieris
CASEVAC corpsman
MAG-16***

Ky., native. “They are very motivated and a big part of the Navy and Marine Corps team.”

As part of an all-volunteer force, some of the corpsmen were ready to “hang it up” until they deployed to Iraq and began working as CASEVAC corpsmen.

“Doing what we do makes it all worthwhile,” said Pham, a Los Angeles native. “I was considering getting out of the Navy until coming here and doing something as important as this.”

As U.S. service members continue to fight in Iraq, there will be more casualties and more calls for immediate casualty evacuations. Always ready to answer those calls are the CASEVAC corpsmen.

“The Marines are out there putting their lives on the line for us,” Zieris said. “It’s our job to make sure they come home.”



Feature

‘Fuels’ keep air station on the move

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar CPAO

After a long day surrounded by the fumes of jet, unleaded and diesel fuels, the Marines from Fuels Division, Installations and Logistics, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, prepare to keep aircraft and vehicles on the move the next day.

“The amount of fuel we dispense varies,” said Sgt. Isidro Gonzalez, platoon sergeant, Fuels Division. “Some days we can give up to 100,000 gallons.”

The Mexico City, Mexico, native added that without the division, nothing on the air station would be able to move.

“Without us there is nothing moving,” Gonzalez said. “We are responsible for (refueling) everything that comes through the air station that has an engine in it.”

The division work leader, Jaime Nery, said the main objective is not to keep everything moving, but to give the aircraft and vehicle what they need to move.

“The main objective of fuels is to support the squadrons, replenish their aircraft and any aircraft that land at Miramar that are requesting fuel so they can fulfill their mission,” said Nery, a San Diego native.

The unit recently received an award for their outstanding service within the fueling industry.

The American Petroleum Institute awarded MCAS Miramar for excellence in fuels management for 2005.

“MCAS Miramar distinguished itself by safely, efficiently and accurately handling almost 40 million gallons of

petroleum products and satisfactorily conducting over 207,000 aircraft, vehicle and equipment fueling operations without delay or incident,” the citation read. “The magnitude of this task was matched by the outstanding service provided by the fuel department.”

According to Nery, the section is short on manpower, but able to meet all assigned tasks.

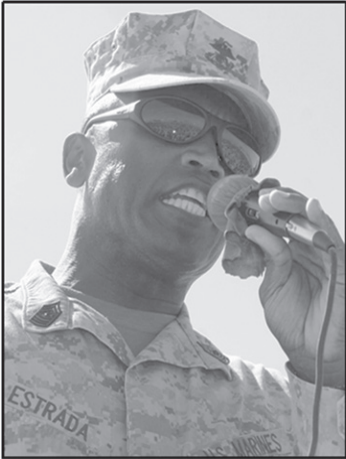
“We are shorthanded on people, and we are still able to fulfill our requirements,” he said.

Sgt. Edwin F. Martinez, bulk fuels specialist, Fuels Division, added he is

just a small part of a more important mission.

“This type of mission is vital for the Marine Corps in general,” said the New York native. “A lot of flights and a lot of training take place here, so we are really needed to support Marine aviation.”

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

An appreciative audience awaits

Miramar home to Corps' 'Engineer of the Year'

Story by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

A Miramar combat engineer is the recipient of the 2005 Marine Corps Combat Engineer of the Year award.

Sgt. Justin R. Lamb, platoon sergeant, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, has a reputation for positive attitude and outstanding dedication to his job.

Lamb, who has served two combat tours overseas, was named platoon sergeant Jan. 15.

"When I came here I heard nothing but good things about him," said 2nd Lt. Eric L. Snyder, construction officer-in-charge, MWSS-373. "He is always pushing to have our Marines trained properly."

Lamb said he wants to train his Marines in all levels of operation so that they can best do their job.

Lamb, a Rochester, Pa., native, was noticed for his dedication to his duties when he was sent by his command to train at an Emergency Medical Technician course that was originally nine weeks, but was packed into only five intense weeks of training.

Snyder wanted him to have this knowledge so Lamb could train his Marines on his own time.

"He would go to his eight-hour class and still come back to work and act as the platoon sergeant," said Snyder.

The MWSS-373 construction shop has 15 Marines, and they all need to be trained in all aspects of their job and be good at it, according to Snyder.

To better his Marines, Lamb never leaves until the job is done and done well. He has also restored a physical training program, said Snyder.

"What makes a good Marine is having pride in

what you do," said Lamb. "The Marine Corps is what you make of it."

Lamb served overseas from January to August 2003. In Iraq, he was responsible for airfield clearing.

"We cleared and worked lanes and also worked with the British Royal Marines," said Lamb.

Lamb was stationed in Fallujah from March to September 2004. Lamb was attached to Company A, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, for four intense months, and supported patrols and raids where they found thousands of mortars, Lamb said.

During Operation Vigilant Resolve, he took part in operations to close off Fallujah and helped secure a barricade.

"There couldn't have been a better choice for the award for this year," Snyder said.

Lamb is a good example of a hard-working Marine who deserves this type of award, said Snyder.



Sgt. Justin R. Lamb, platoon sergeant, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2005 Combat Engineer of the Year, looks over a supply sheet March 2 in his squadron shop at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. Photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

Feature

Marines sink sailors 7-2 in ‘Gulls Challenge’

Story by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine hockey team and a regional Navy hockey team participated in the “Gulls Challenge” at the iPayOne Center in San Diego March 3.

The “Gulls Challenge” was an exhibition game between the Marines and Navy, and served as the annual military appreciation game played before a Gulls game.

The game was a morale booster for the Marines who ended their season 8-3-3 by beating Navy 7-2.

“It felt real good out there,” said Marines right wing Brent Crow. “There’s always tension between services, and it was an accomplishment to beat the Navy.”

The first period was a battle between teams that favored the Marines. Most of the game was played in the Navy redzone. The Marines pressed the Navy, but the Navy held up and kept them scoreless.

At the end of the first period there was no score, but the damage showed with the Marines outnumbering Navy with 22 to 5 shots on goal. The first period set the pace of the game for the Marines.

In the second period Marines left wing Paul Croom broke the ice with a goal with 11:50 left in the period.

“In the first period I was kind of shaky,” said Crow, a 20-year-old Harrisburg, Pa. native. “After we hit a few goals and got into a rhythm, it all went away.”

Marines right wing Jon Grams and defenseman Stephan Forget scored the next two goals to put the Marines up 4-0.

The Navy team battled back when their right wing David Silver scored with 4:54 left in the second period to set the score to 4-1. When the second period came to a close it was plain to see the Marines were in a rhythm.



Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine hockey team defenseman Matt Levine (number 10), handles the puck and drives in for a shot at goal. Levine scored within the first minute of the third quarter in the “Gulls Challenge” March 3 at the iPayOne Center in San Diego. Photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

As the third period began, the Marines came out and in less than one minute reinstated their scoring frenzy.

Marines defenseman Matt Levine scored with 14:09 left in the third period and then Marines center Brad Parnell followed up 30 seconds later to make the score 6-1.

Although the Navy showed signs of life when center Mike O’Regan scored with 12:28 remaining in the game, the Marines were overpowering in defense and goalie Evan Callahan shut the door on the Navy.

When the siren of the end of the game sounded, the Marines team bench filled with elation. Despite having the advantage over the Navy for playing together longer, the Marines showed signs of relief in beating the Navy.

Crow said that the Navy had a personnel advantage over the Marines, and the Marine team was selected under a slimmer selection.

The game was a good ending to a tough season for the Marines. The victory stands to take them into next season with high hopes and motivation.

New ARFF facility meets Marines' needs

Story by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

For the past two years, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, has been using a facility that failed to meet operational standards as well as accommodate the ARFF Marines.

A March 1 ribbon cutting ceremony marked the ARFF's new facility opening at MCAS Miramar.

The old facility lacked adequate sleeping quarters, dining facilities, training areas, and decent working areas.

"The facility was too crowded to work efficiently," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cindy A. Mangan, officer-in-charge, ARFF. "The facility was inadequate and unable to support the Marines' needs."

The renovation included a modernized training room and a larger kitchen for the Marines.

Mangan, a native of Ogden, Utah, said ARFF is a stressful job. The Marines work in situations that can be mentally exhausting.

Some of the Marines on duty must remain in their gear to be ready for anything that may happen. The gear can sometimes cause discomfort for the Marines during severe heat.

The old facility also failed to support enough sleeping quarters to accommodate ARFF's 100 Marines.

ARFF's responsibility is to be part of the first responders in the event of a mishap or emergency.

They also prepare to assume the responsibility as the air control tower during closed field operations on the flight line.

The new facility includes a tower so the dispatch has the capability to visualize everything that happens on or around the flight line.

"The dispatch used to sit in a small room," said Mangan. "This new tower gives them a better view of the flight line so they can better coordinate between various units during an emergency."

The old facility lacked in many areas but the new \$3.8 million renovation nearly doubled the facility's size to more than 9,000 square feet.

The extra space gives the Marines the opportunity to relax and recollect after a stressful day.

"We have updated and modernized," concluded Mangan. "This new facility will definitely help operations run smoother."



(Left to right) Gary Sponsel, project leader, Resident Officer-In-Charge of Construction office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar; Dan Curley, project manager, Penick Construction; Lt. Col. Douglas H. Biggs, airfield operations officer, MCAS Miramar; Col. Paul C. Christian, commanding officer, MCAS Miramar; and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mark K. Cho, ROICC office, cut the ribbon March 1 at MCAS Miramar, during a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting facility. *Photo by Sgt. Jessica Grear*



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Cindy A. Mangan (left), officer-in-charge, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and Gunnery Sgt. Ronald D. Soares, supply chief, pose in front of the new ARFF building on the opening day March 1 at MCAS Miramar. The new facility features a tower from where the ARFF dispatch has a better view of what may be going on around the flight line. ARFF assumes responsibility as air control tower during closed field operations. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver*

Briefs

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:

6:30 p.m. Underworld; Evolution (R)
9:00 p.m. Casanova (R)

Saturday:

6:30 p.m. Glory Road (PG)
9:15 p.m. *The Ringer (PG-13)

Sunday:

1:00 p.m. *Hoodwinked (PG)
6:30 p.m. *Munich (R)

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Something New (PG-13)

Thursday:

2:00 p.m. Something New (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. *Casnova (R)

* Indicates the last showing for that film

Mom or Dad Deployed?

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Youth and Teen Center is hosting a gathering for children of deployed Marines and sailors every second and fourth Monday of each month.

Children ages 8 to 10 meet from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. ages 11 to 13 meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Youth and Teen Center.

For more information, call 577-1322 or visit www.mccsmiramar.com.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

Wednesday:

7 p.m. Baptist service

Monday-Friday:

11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

Jewish:

7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Military Tax Center

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tax Center is now open, providing service members and their families with free tax services.

The center is located at Building 6250 and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the tax season nears its end April 15.

Civilian Leadership Program

All military and civilian personnel at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar are invited to a Civilian Leadership Program sponsored workshop focused on how to develop a strong personal foundation.

The workshop will be held March 17 from 8:00 a.m. to noon in Building 8456, Room 103.

Power Yoga Classes

Challenge your balance, strength and endurance with Power Yoga classes on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Miramar Sports Complex and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. at the Semper Fit Center. For more information, call 577-4669.

OWC 2006 Continuing Education Scholarship

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Officers' Wives Club is accepting applications for the Continuing Education Scholarships from the families of MCAS Miramar's active duty, retired, or deceased military. Applications must be received no later than April 1. Applications are available online at www.mccsmiramar.com.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal's Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
Unk. Chevy Camaro	CA/4WW251	1991 Eagle Talon	OH/DLA3730
1968 Ford Mustang	CA/WSS386	1990 Ford Bronco	NY/CFX1143
1968 Ford Mustang	MT/3B43644	1967 Chevy Camaro	UT/021VBN
Unk. Acura Integra	CA/5AFT065	2002 Dodge Ram	CA/6Z64544
1995 Ford Mustang	CO/446HTB	1972 Chevy Pickup	MI/9660MN